

- In 1997, the rate of child abuse investigations in Skamania County was 22.3 per 1,000 children compared to a statewide rate of 25.5 per 1,000.
- There is insufficient data to determine whether the child abuse investigation rate in 1997 is the beginning of an upward trend.

Sources:

1. Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs. Washington Uniform Crime Statistics, 1990-1997.
2. Washington State Department of Social and Health Services. Child Abuse Victims Database, 1994-97.
3. Washington State Office of The Superintendent of Public Instruction. Free and Reduced-price School Lunches Database, 1998.
4. Washington State Office of The Superintendent of Public Instruction. Fall 1997: District-Level Summaries Grades 4, 8, and 11, Washington State Assessment Program, 1997.
5. U.S. Census, 1990.

Southwest Washington Health District

Child Health

in Skamania County



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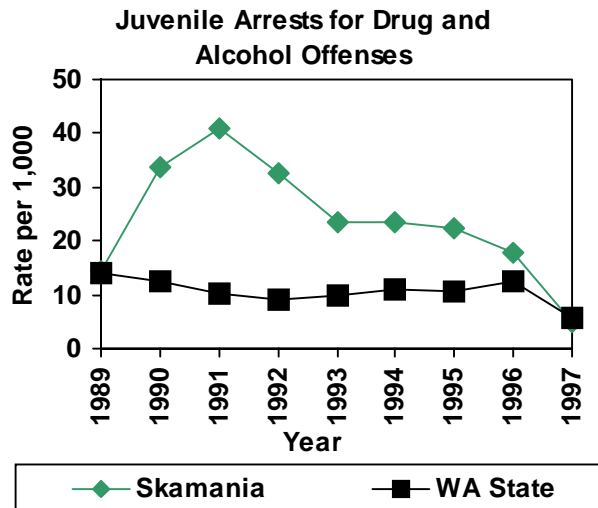
Our focus on child health examines three issues: arrest rates for drug and alcohol related offenses, readiness to learn, and child abuse. These three areas were targeted because problems arising from these issues are preventable. Further, child abuse and juvenile criminal activity, among other influences, are risk factors in terms of a child's readiness to learn and can adversely impact the socio-economic health and well being of a child, both presently and in later years.

Juvenile* Arrests for Drug and Alcohol Offenses

*Less than 18 years of age.

Drug and alcohol offenses include the manufacture, sale or possession of illegal drugs, driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and liquor law violations.

- Since 1991 the arrest rate dropped from 40.9 arrests per 1,000 Skamania residents in this age group to 5.1 in 1997.
- During the same period the state rate decreased from 10.3 per 1,000 to 5.7.
- In general, there were more arrests for alcohol related offenses than drug related offenses.



Readiness to Learn

A child's readiness to learn at school is influenced by a number of factors. The level of poverty, physical health, community support and academic proficiency are generally good predictors of the future educational attainment of a child. Educational attainment can, in turn, influence the child's future health and socio-economic well being.

Academic Proficiency:

- Skamania County 4th graders scored lower than the State or National average on the Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills (for math, reading and language).

	1997 Averages
Skamania County	48
Washington State	53
Nation	50

Childhood Poverty:

- Federal census data reveal that in 1989 one out of every ten children in Skamania County was living below the federal poverty level.

- During the 1997-98 academic year 33% of the Skamania County students applied for free or reduced-price school lunches compared to 31% of students statewide.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Another measure of child health is the number of investigations conducted by Child Protective Services (CPS) into possible abuse or neglect against Skamania County children. Children are defined as persons less than 18 years of age.

